Principal’s Update
Dear Parents and Carers,

Thanks to everyone for your cooperation during our recent water emergency. The decision to close the school was made out of concern for health and safety of students. We had a great response from the majority of families who showed their support by promptly picking up their children.
The situation highlighted the importance of keeping the school informed of changes to your emergency contacts and phone numbers.

Congratulations to all students who received Gold Stars for PBL last week and to the students elected as class representatives for Student Parliament. Well done! Positive behaviour and citizenship are highly valued qualities at Ellalong School.

Congratulations also to Rose Lucas for her achievement in being selected in the Hunter Region Basketball team.

Mrs Susan Sims,
Principal.

School Website
Copies of our newsletters, notes, etc. can be found on our school website www.ellalong-p.schools.nsw.edu.au

Safety around our school
To ensure the safety of all students parents must not drive into the school grounds to drop off or pick up students at any time.

Students must only enter school grounds through small gates and must not enter through driveway entrance.

Student Illness
We ask that parents please do not send your child/children to school when they are obviously not well. This helps keep infection to a minimum in classrooms.

When a child presents to his/her teacher or office staff feeling not well we can only act on how the child says he/she is feeling. We have a *duty of care* towards all students and we will ring home when we are concerned for the wellbeing of your child.

Absences
*All student absences must be followed by a note when the student returns. Parents can email the school ellalong-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au or telephone the school before 9am.*

*If you are taking a family holiday during any term, please come to the office at least 7 days prior and complete the appropriate form.*

*Students arriving late must come to the office before going to the classroom. Parents collecting students early must come to the office before proceeding to the classroom.*

P & C News
Our next P & C Meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 8, 2014 at 3.30pm.

**WE INVITE ALL PARENTS AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS TO COME ALONG**

**Canteen will open Fridays only.**

Helpers Roster: with Mrs Annette Fisher
March 14 Tammy Morris
March 21 Natasha Kirk and Rachael Chapman
March 29 Tammie Spicer
April 4 Rachel Chapman and Natasha Kirk
April 11 Annie King
April 18 Melanie Sills and Dawn Samwell
April 25 Kirsty Formosa and Rheannon Monk

Thank you to our volunteers and any queries please contact Annette Fisher.

Your support of our P & C is greatly appreciated and we invite all parents and interested community members to come along and support our efforts on behalf of our students.

School Uniform
Red School Shirt $30 each
Red School Hat $12 each
Girls School Dress $45 each
Red Polo Fleece Jacket $30 each
**Student Belongings**
PLEASE make sure all of your child/children’s clothing, lunch boxes, etc. are clearly marked with his/her name. **Parents are reminded** that all students must wear laced up/closed in shoes to school each day for their own protection. Casual slip on shoes and/or sandals are not appropriate for school wear.

**Merit Awards**
Merit Awards are given out each week at Friday Assembly. When you child has received 5 Merit Awards please bring them to the school office and a Principal’s Award will be presented the following assembly. **If 5 Principal Awards are received a School Pen is awarded.**

**Awards must be at office** no later than Thursday morning at 10am to be included in the next day’s assembly.

**School Payments**
We now have eftpos facilities at the school office. **No refunds or cash out is available.**
Families are still able to pay their Family Contribution as all students are invoiced individually.

**Sport**
*Miranda Morris and Rose Lucas tried out for the PSSA Hunter Basketball Team with Rose successfully making the team to play in Albury later this year. Congratulations to both girls and good luck Rose!!!*

*We had 15 students qualify to participate in the PSSA Zone Swimming Carnival. Jorja Brown came third in her 50m freestyle and was very close to being selected. Congratulations to all swimmers!!*

*We have had several students try out for PSSA teams in rugby league, soccer and netball. They have all shown great sportsmanship and congratulations to all!!*

**Weekly Awards**
Term 1 - Weeks 4, 5 and 6

**Merit Awards** - Olivia Pollock, Lillian Mansfield, Chloe Formosa, Zane Enright, Cooper Teasdale, Kaylee Brekvoort-Sadler, Archie Sills, Sienna Amidy, Hayden Sneesby, Nedebah Moore, Anna Volkl, Jorja Brown and Bella Kingston.

**PBL Awards** - Riley Watters, Jordyn O’Hearn, Courtney Hopkins-Vernon, Ryan Watters, Tanesha Belcher, Brathan George, Wiley Cameron, Madison Lucas, Kimi Karaitiana-Tua, Seth Koop, Tully Chapman, Lilly Bridge, Wesley Thomas and Braithen Wiseman.

**Reading Awards** - Braiden Wyborn, Lillian Bridge, Archie Will, Blake Jackson, Brylee Stewart, Olivia Shakespeare, Evie King, Wiley Cameron, Logan Cullen, Anna Volkl, Aari Benbow, Riley Souter, Riley Brown, Charli-anne Regent, Riley Watters, Sylis Rust, Olivia Pollock, Lewis Brown, Riley Rees, Tully Chapman, Brathan George, Jessie King, Lochlen Corcoran, Lilly Bridge, Thomas Hancock, Harrison Fisher, Mykailah Wilson, Nedebah Moore, Caitlin Thomas, Rylee Arthuson, Tori Farley, Connor Sneesby, Madison Lucas, Archie Sills, Braiden Wiseman, Aiden Chaffey, Emma Formosa and Chloe Formosa.
**Principal Awards** - Sam Baker, Wiley Cameron, Braiden Wyborn, Sienna Amidy, Chloe Formosa, Lillian Mansfield, Jesse King, Evie King and Jace Hughes.

**Pen** - Ryan Watters, Samuel Broadfoot and Emme Formosa.

**Gold Star** - Riley Browan, Lochlen Corcoran, Abby Garred, Zane Enright and Guy Armstrong.

**Jargon busters** - Wanting to start the school year with clarity and wondering about the meaning of some of the school terminology? Here’s a list of common abbreviations or terms to make the world inside the school gates seem a little more familiar. School jargon buster: [http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/homework-and-study/homework-tips/school-jargon-busters](http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/homework-and-study/homework-tips/school-jargon-busters)

**School’s back** - Life seems to go from zero to 100 during the first few weeks of school. These parents have pooled their years of experience to bring you some suggestions to make the rest of the year run more smoothly. Good luck! Back to school checklist: [http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/homework-and-study/planning-for-the-future/back-to-school-checklist](http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/homework-and-study/planning-for-the-future/back-to-school-checklist)

**Learning to read** - Learning to read is hard work and can be frustrating at times for parents and their kids. Watch the video to hear what these public school teachers have to say to help, with quick tips on how to make it easier. Learning to read: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E5Om77mluKU&feature=share](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E5Om77mluKU&feature=share)

**What is Kik and why is it popular?**  Kik is a free texting app popular with younger teens who generally have a limited texting plan or use an iPod Touch. Find out more about Kik messenger: [http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/technology/technology-az/-/technology_glossary/7w0F/5353/Kik+messenger](http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/technology/technology-az/-/technology_glossary/7w0F/5353/Kik+messenger)


The benefit of team sports - If you want your child to grow up to be a confident and well-adjusted adult, then team sports may well be the answer. Find out more:

Teen or tween moods - As a parent you may feel distressed by disrespectful or rude behaviour in your teenager. Although the phase will pass eventually, there are some strategies that can help you manage this kind of behaviour in the meantime. Dealing with disrespectful or rude behaviour:
http://bit.ly/1kGgkBZ

2014 homework planner
The best homework help you can give your child is to teach them to be organised. Print out the 2014 homework and study calendar, which includes key dates and school holidays. Stick them on the fridge and above their desk. Find out more:

Maths A to Z
Brush up on some of the maths terms your child uses in the classroom. The Maths A to Z glossary provides straightforward explanations and illustrated examples. Find out more:

Great books for tweens to read
Favourite books from the Premier's Reading Challenge team that will inspire kids aged between nine and 13 to read read read! Find out more:

Science assignment starters
Not sure where to go to help your child find out about electricity, natural disasters, the solar system or other science projects? Have a look at our project starters. Find out more: